

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- At the time of Action: Claims 1, 3-8, 10-16, and 18-23.
- After this Response: Claims 1, 3-8, 10-16, and 18-23.

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: Claims 2, 9 and 17.

Amended claims: 10 and 21.

New claims: none.

Claims:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules comprising:

a file locator configured to locate an executable image on a computer media;

a file-format recognizer configured to recognize the file format of the executable image from amongst a database of multiple file format definitions, wherein the database is extensible so that additional file format definitions may be added to the database of multiple file format definitions;

a memory-mapper configured to open the executable image from the computer media and read it into a computer memory;

an importer configured to find a list of executable image names to load;

an exporter configured to build a representation of program modules that an executable image exports;

a binder configured to link multiple executable images together, such images being those of the list of executable image names.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the importer is further configured to direct the loading of multiple executable images of the list of executable image names to load

4. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the file-format recognizer is further configured to select one or more of a group of available pluggable sub-loaders is capable of loading the recognized file format of the executable image.

5. (ORIGINAL) A loader comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 1.

6. (ORIGINAL) An operating system comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 1.

7. (ORIGINAL) A computer comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 1.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules comprising:

a searcher configured to search a computer media for an executable image for loading;

a format recognizer configured to the format of the executable image;

a memory-mapper configured to load and map the executable image into memory based upon the format of the executable image;

a sub-loader configured to examine a data structure of the executable image to determine whether to load additional images;

a database of multiple executable-image formats which is the basis for which the recognizer recognizes the format of executable image and for which the memory-mapper varies how it loads and maps the executable image into memory, wherein the database is extensible so that additional executable-image formats may be recognized by the recognizer and loaded and mapped by the memory-mapper.

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein one or more modules of the medium are configured to be replaced with a replacement module without recompilation of one or more modules.

11. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the memory-mapper is further configured to convert the executable image before mapping it into the memory.

12. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the memory-mapper is further configured to decrypt the executable image before mapping it into the memory.

13. (ORIGINAL) A loader comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 8.

14. (ORIGINAL) An operating system comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 8.

15. (ORIGINAL) A computer comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 8.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for facilitating loading to one or more executable images of varying formats, the method comprising:

locating an executable image on a computer media;

investigating information related to the executable image, thereby identifying the format of the executable image, wherein during the investigating, an extensible database of executable-image formats is accessed;

based upon the identified format of the image, initiating a loader associated with that identified format;

with that loader, loading the executable image into a computer memory.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein headers of the image contains the information related to the executable image for the investigating.

19. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs the method as recited in claim 16.

20. (ORIGINAL) A computer comprising one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by the computer, perform the method as recited in claim 16.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having modularized computer-executable modularized sets of instructions that, when executed by the computer, perform a method comprising:

load loading one or more executable images into a computer memory, such an image having one or more formats defined by an extensible database of executable-image formats;

executing the one or more executable images that are loaded into the computer memory.

22. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the modularized sets of instructions are isolated with clean interfaces.

23. (ORIGINAL) An operating system comprising a medium as recited in claim 21.